

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00016 251940Z

16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /118 W

----- 090867

R 251829Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 616

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 16

JANUARY 25, 1974.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: SOME LOYALISTS ABSTAIN FROM ASSEMBLY OTHERS FILIBUSTER

SUMMARY: VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD STAY AWAY FROM ASSEMBLY FROM WHICH IT WITHDRAW JANUARY 23 BUT FELLOW LOYALISTS IN DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST AND ULSTER UNIONIST PARTIES WERE BACK ON JAN 24 TO CONTINUE FILIBUSTER TACTICS OF PREVIOUS DAY. THUS LOYALISTS SPLIT OVER TACTICS WITH DUP AND UUP SEEKING TO AVOID BOTH THE IRRELEVANCY WHICH WOULD FOLLOW PERMANENT DEPARTURE FROM ASSEMBLY AND CHARGES OF COLLABORATION FROM CONSTITUENTS AND RIVALS WHICH WOULD FOLLOW ACCEPTANCE OF POSITION OF LOYAL OPPOSITION TO EXECUTIVE, END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF VANGUARD DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST AND ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY MEN FROM JANUARY 23 ASSEMBLY SITTING VANGUARD ANNOUNCED IT HAD WITHDRAWN PERMANENTLY I.E. UNTIL EXECUTIVE HAD BEEN BROUGHT DOWN AND ASSEMBLY COULD BE USED AS VANGUARD HAD PROPOSED PG 1973 ELECTION MANIFESTO AS A CONFERENCE TABLE TO HAMMER OUT NEW DEAL FOR ULSTER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00016 251940Z

2. BUT AS JANUARY 24 ASSEMBLY SITTING BEGAN PAISLEYITES AND ULSTER UNIONISTS WERE PRESENT. WHEN SPEAKER REFUSED TO TAKE PAISLEY'S POINT OF ORDER AND INSTEAD PROCEEDED TO QUESTIONS LOYALISTS WALKED ABOUT SHOUTING ABUSE AT EXECUTIVE. AFTER QUESTIONS THEY RETURNED AND ASKED FROM BACK OF HOUSE (NOT CHALLENGING EXECUTIVE'S RIGHT TO FRONT BENCH BUT NOT OCCUPYING OPPOSITION BENCH EITHER) FOR SPEAKER'S RULINGS ON POINTS OF ORDER RAISED JANUARY 23. LOYALISTS THEN TIED UP ASSEMBLY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR WITH VARIOUS POINTS OF ORDER AND INTERRUPTIONS WHICH CAUSED SPEAKER TO EJECT TWO OF THEM FROM DAY'S SITTING.

3. ULSTER UNIONISTS LEADER HARRY WEST PLAYED SOMETHING OF A MODERATING ROLE TELLING SPEAKER ALL ASSEMBLYMEN WANTED TO KEEP POLITICS WITHIN CHAMBER AND AVOID DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE IT. "THIS IS NOT A THREAT THIS IS A FEAR". WEST SAID PAISLEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SHOUTED DOWN WHEN HE TRIED TO MAKE POINT OF ORDER JANUARY 22. ON OTHER HAND, WEST PERSUADED PAISLEY'S DEPUTY REV. BEATTIE TO LEAVE ASSEMBLY UNDER HIS OWN POWER RATHER THAN RESIST SPEAKER'S ORDER TO WITHDRAW. FINALLY AROUND 3.30 PM LOYALISTS WITHDREW FOR THE DAY AMID COMMOTION WITH INDICATION THEY WOULD BE BACK AT NEXT SITTING TO HEAR SPEAKER'S RULINGS ON THEIR MOST RECENT POINTS OF ORDER. ASSEMBLY PROCEEDED TO PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ON DAY - DEBATE ON MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN NEW EXECUTIVE.

4. COMMENT: PRESENCE HOWEVER DISRUPTIVE OF ULSTER UNIONISTS AND DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS AT JANUARY 24 ASSEMBLY SITTING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VANGUARD DECISION TO WITHDRAW PERMANENTLY INDICATES TACTICAL SPLIT WITHIN LOYALIST CAMP. IT RECALLS SITUATION IN AUGUST 1973 AFTER WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF LOYALIST DISRUPTION OF ASSEMBLY'S FIRST SITTING WHEN VANGUARD LEADER CRAIG DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES AND ORDERS WHILE PAISLEY AND UNPLEDGED UNIONIST CPT ARDILL PARTICIPATED FULLY AND SOUGHT TO STRENGTHEN POWERS OF ASSEMBLY AND RIGHTS OF OPPOSITION VIS-A-VIS FUTURE EXECUTIVE. IT SEEMED THEN AND DURING AUTUMN THE PAISLEY A CONSUMMATE PARLIAMENTARIAN WAS SEEKING TO PREPARE PLACE FOR HIMSELF AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE. FILIBUSTERING TACTIC ADOPTED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00016 251940Z

IN JANUARY 23 AND 24 SITTING REMINISCENT IT HAS BEEN SAID OF IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY FILIBUSTERS IN WESTMINSTER HOUSE OF COMMONS DURING 19TH CENTURY KEEPS OPTIONS OPEN FOR LOYALISTS: THEY AVOID BECOMING IRRELEVANT THROUGH VOLUNTARY ABSTENTION OF DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSION FROM ASSEMBLY AND AT SAME TIME AVOID ACCEPTANCE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION POSITION THAT BE REGARDED BY THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND PARLIAMENTARY RIVALS AS BETRAYAL OF LOYALIST CAUSE.

PENBERTHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELFAS00016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740117/aaaaapck.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME LOYALISTS ABSTAIN FROM ASSEMBLY OTHERS FILIBUSTER SUMMARY: VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD STAY
TAGS: PINT, UK, (NI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005